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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON UNION WITH GEORGIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Savannah, Ga., May 3rd, 1920.

To The Georgia Historical Society:

The undersigned committee appointed by resolution of the Society February 17, 1920, to take up with the Georgia Historical Association the question of union, and to report a plan to the Society reports as follows:

The committee on behalf of Georgia Historical Association consisted of Dr. R. P. Brooks, Chairman, Mr. P. F. Brock, Mr. Orville A. Park, and Dr. P. S. Flippin, all of Macon. After some correspondence these gentlemen consented to meet with your committee in Hodgson Hall, Savannah, and a joint conference was there held on March 6, 1920, in the morning, with adjournment over to the afternoon. All the members of your committee were present. Of the Association committee, Dr. Brooks was detained by providential cause, and Mr. Park by imperative engagements. The committee of the Association met your committee in a spirit of mutual co-operation, with an earnest desire to accomplish that which was best for the interest of the state and both organizations. The joint conference unanimously adopted a plan of union, which is attached to and forms a part of this report, and your committee commends it to your approval and recommends that the Georgia Historical Society shall take such action as may facilitate its early accomplishment.

The plan is self explanatory. The reasons why such a union is desirable were set forth in the annual report of the President. Your committee deems it unnecessary to make detail comment upon the plan submitted.

TELFAIR ACADEMY.

The disposition of the Telfair Academy trust was referred to this committee at the annual meeting in connection with the plan of union, and the plan provides that the Society should resign the trust and request the Court in selecting the new trustee to have regard so far as practicable to the wishes of the founder.

When Miss Mary Telfair selected this Society as trustee of the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences about forty-five years ago the Society was in that stage of its existence in which it was exercising no functions except those of a local circulating library for the benefit of its members. Apparently Miss Telfair regarded it as a purely local institution and it probably seemed simpler to her to select this existing local organization composed of thoroughly trustworthy persons than to make special selection of inidviduals or of a new corporation, with the necessity of providing for future successions. She created a local institution, and she intended to appoint a local institution as its governing body. Even today your Society has to a considerable extent changed its character as a local institution. The non-resident membership has reached important numbers, and four out of fifteen curators reside in other parts of the state. If this plan of union be consummated it will entirely cease to be a local institution and will be a strictly state institution. If it should continue to execute the trust entrusted to it by Miss Telfair it would clearly be acting contrary to her wishes, and would take from Savannah the control of Savannah's art gallery.

Your committee is unanimously of the opinion that as a part of the proposed union the Society should present to the Superior Court of Chatham County its resignation of the trust and request that it be relieved. If and when the court shall accept this resignation, the appointment of a successor will rest exclusively with the court, but your committee ventures the opinion that the court will not receive with disfavor any suggestion which may be made to the court by this honorable

society, which has faithfully and efficiently administered the trust since the termination of the Telfair will litigation and the distribution of the estate in 1883.

Miss Telfair, by the selection of your Society as trustee, clearly experssed her wish that the trust should be administered by residents of Savannah who had the qualifications possessed by members of your Society. Her wishes would be more nearly carried out if the trust should be committed to a "charitable" corporation to be organized by residents of Chatham County interested in the Telfair Academy, who are at the time of organization members of the Georgia Historical Society; who should be charter members of the new corporation, and who, with such other persons as they may associate with them and their successors from time to time, should constitute a corporation to be known as "Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences," to be vested with the title and management of the Academy. Your committee recommends that the Society approve this suggestion and let it at the proper time be presented to the Judge of the Superior Court.

CURATORS AND OFFICERS

Your committee is advised that when your Board of Curators first met after the annual meeting for the election of officers for the ensuing year, all the then incumbents were reelected with the understanding that in view of the proposed union and the state-wide character of the consolidated society, the resignations of these officers would be at the disposal of the consolidated society immediately after the union. Your committee is also advised that the majority of the Curators resident in Savannah have expressed their intention to present their resignations as Curators as soon as the union shall be effected. The carrying out of these intentions will enable the personnel of the Curators and officers of the Society to reflect its state-wide character.

OTIS ASHMORE,
CHARLES ELLIS,
BEVERLY D. EVANS,
LAWTON B. EVANS,

A. R. LAWTON,
ANTON P. WRIGHT,
By A. R. LAWTON,
Chairman.

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
GEORGIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Savannah, Ga., March 6, 1920.

Plan of merger of the two organizations adopted in a joint conference of their respective committees held this day in Hodgson Hall, Savannah.

Georgia Historical Society is herein referred to as the "Society," and Georgia Historical Association as the "Association."

NAME, CHARTER AND DOMICILE.

The Association to be merged into the Society, which will continue under its present name and charter with its domicile at Savannah. This merger to be accomplished so soon as practicable after the annual meeting of the Association, and a special meeting of the Society to be called. Both organizations shall meanwhile continue their current and usual activities, including the collection of their dues as now prescribed.

MEETINGS.

The Society should meet once a year for the election of officers, transaction of business, and appropriate exercises; and at other times on special occasions as may be hereafter determined. Meetings should be held by rotation among various places in the state as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Curators.

BRANCHES.

The Consolidated Society should establish branch societies in all the counties of the state in which sufficient historical interest can be developed, and should encourage and assist them by all practicable means.

MEMBERSHIP.

All members of the Society to continue as such for the year 1920 on payment of dues now prescribed ($5). The Association will use its best endeavors to transfer all its members to membership in the Consolidated Society on payment for 1920 of the dues which may be prescribed for the Consolidated Society.

EXISTING FUNDS AND ASSETS.

The Society to transfer from its permanent fund to its current fund $1,500 and to pay its note in bank for $1,000 and interest, which is its only debt other than minor current bills. All moneys and other assets of the two organizations shall become the property of the Consolidated Society.

The Association will endeavor to transfer to the Consolidated Society the guaranties which it has procured to assist in paying the cost of a quarterly magazine, and all members of the Consolidated Society will endeavor to increase and renew such guaranties.

BOARD OF CURATORS.

The entire management of the Consolidated Society, except as may from time to time be otherwise provided by the Society, should be reposed in a Board of Curators consisting of fifteen members; each curator to hold office for three years and until a successor shall be elected and qualified; elections to so alternate that the terms of one-third of the curators should expire each year. Membership of the Board of Curators should be, so far as practicable, evenly distributed geographically over the state, having due regard, however, to special qualifications of individuals. The Board of Curators should meet at the time and place of the annual meeting, and also at such other times and places as they may determine. All expenses incurred by curators and officers in attending meetings, and on the business of the Society, should be paid by the Society.

LIBRARY.

The library of the Society located in Hodgson Hall in Savannah, now consisting of about 40,000 volumes and about an equal number of pamphlets, shall be continued at its present location and should be kept open for the use of members, (and, under proper restrictions, of others) for reasonable hours consistent with the financial resources of the Consolidated Society. It should be in charge of a competent librarian, and arrangements should be made for the use (under reasonable restrictions) of its contents by members at places other than Savannah.

The budget of the Consolidated Society should provide a reasonable amount for continuing accretions to the library.

HISTORICAL MAGAZINE AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

All publications of the Society, including its "collections," its reports and its magazine, should be under the control of a Committee on Publications selected by the Board of Curators, from members having special qualifications for such duties. This committee should have immediate charge of the magazine, for which there should be a managing editor reporting to this committee. The magazine and all other publications should conform to the best historical standards of the country.

DUES.

The Consolidated Society should have the following classes of membership, for which the committees in conference recommend dues as stated:

Honorary members and corresponding members who pay no dues and have no vote; all other members to have voting power.

Life members who, on payment of $100, are exempt from all further dues and from solicitation.

Active members $3, Contributing members $10, and Sustaining members $25, per annum.

FINANCES.

At the beginning the budget should provide for an annual income from dues of not less than $5,000 as follows:

ANNUAL BUDGET CONSOLIDATED SOCIETY.

Includes Maintenance and Operation of Hodgson Hall and the Library, Salary of Librarian, Corresponding Secretary, and Editor of magazine (one or more persons), printing of magazine, general and miscellaneous expenses.

Insurance Hodgson Hall, Library and their contents	$ 175.00	
Fuel and lights	150.00	
Repairs and Miscellaneous Supplies	250.00	
Janitor Service	500.00	
Miscellaneous	50.00	$1,125.00
Salaries	$2,100.00	
Printing Quarterly—1,500 Copies	1,500.00	
Postage	150.00	
Subscriptions	75.00	$3,825.00
Margin for accretions to Library, Miscellaneous printing, General and Incidental Expenses, etc.		300.00
		$5,250.00

The committees estimate that the consolidated Society can procure and maintain the following membership:

1,000 active members at $3	$3,000	
100 contributing members at $10	1,000	
50 sustaining members at $25	1,250	$5.250

There should be a permanent committee on membership whose continuing duty it should be not only to bring the membership to, but to retain it at, the above figures as a minimum. This committee should be divided into separate sub-committees for the different classes of membership.

Pending increase of membership to the basis indicated, the combined funds of the two organizations should be sufficient for current requirements.

HAND BOOK OF THE SOCIETY.

There should be compiled for the use of the Committee on membership and other uses, a pamphlet of moderate size giving in succinct form appropriate information about the Society, its relics, manuscripts, library and other property, its aims and purposes, and a condensed description of its valuable books (calling special attention to rare volumes). This compilation should from time to time be renewed and brought up to date.

TELFAIR ACADEMY.

The Society is trustee under the will of Mary Telfair of the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, an art gallery located in Savannah. From its inception more than thirty-five years ago it has been managed and controlled by the Society and its Board of Curators acting purely in the capacity of Trustee. It has its own separate fund, none of which has ever been used by the Society. It is a strictly local institution and should not be controlled by other than a local organization. The Society should resign the trust, requesting the court in selecting a new trustee to have regard so far as practicable to the wishes of the founder.

Meanwhile the Academy should, so far as lawful, be under the sole control of a Managing Committee composed of residents of Savannah.

COMPLETION OF MERGER.

The merger should be completed as soon as practicable after the approval of a plan by the two organizations. Each organization should appoint a committee with power to act, and these committees acting jointly should have power to adopt new by-laws for the Consolidated Society, which shall remain in force until the next annual meeting, or until otherwise ordered by, the Consolidated Society.

COMMITTEES.

Georgia Historical Society:
- A. R. LAWTON, *Chairman,*
- OTIS ASHMORE,
- CHARLES ELLIS,
- BEVERLY D. EVANS,
- LAWTON B. EVANS,
- ANTON P. WRIGHT,

Georgia Historical Association:
- R. P. BROOKS, *Chairman.*
- P. F. BROCK,
- ORVILLE A. PARK,
- P. S. FLIPPIN.

Both Committees are unanimous, but the following "reservations" are submitted:

Dr. Brooks of the Association is of the opinion that the qualifications of members of the Committee on Publication should be stated with more particularity in order that the personnel may be confined to historical experts.

Mr. Ellis is of the opinion that the classes of membership should not for the present include Life Members, fearing that it may tend to reduce the number of sustaining memberships.

RESOLUTIONS OF GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY MEETING, MAY 3, 1920.

RESOLVED, by Georgia Historical Society:

1. The Society approves and adopts the proposed plan of union of Georgia Historical Society and Georgia Historical Association this day reported and recommended to it by its committee, consisting of A. R. Lawton, Chairman, Otis Ashmore, Charles Ellis, Beverly D. Evans, Lawton B. Evans, Anton P. Wright, and appearing on the minutes as part of the report of the Committee.

2. The above named committee on union is hereby authorized and instructed to take and perfect all steps to do and perform such acts and things as to them shall seem meet and proper for finally effecting the union of the two organizations.

3. The Treasurer is authorized and directed to transfer from the permanent fund to the current funds the sum of Fifteen Hundred ($1,500.00) Dollars in cash or securities or both, and to pay the current indebtedness of the Society.

When this meeting shall adjourn it shall be subject to the call of the President or any Vice-President, and the adjourned meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be indicated in the call.

RESOLUTIONS OF GEORGIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

On May 22, 1920, the Georgia Historical Association at a meeting held in Atlanta, unanimously approved the same plan by the adoption of the following resolution:

"That the recommendations made by the joint committee of the Georgia Historical Association and the Georgia Historical Society, as embodied in the 'Plan of Merger' submitted by

said Committees, be accepted as the will of this Association; that the Georgia Historical Association hereby declares itself amalgamated with the Georgia Historical Society; that the 'Plan of Merger' be spread upon the minutes of the Association that the President of the Association appoint a Committee with plenary powers to carry into effect the union of the two organizations; and that the said Committee be authorized to deliver to the Treasurer of the Georgia Historical Society all the assets of the Association."

THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Members of the Association:

You have no doubt seen in the press an account of the amalgamation of the Association with the Georgia Historical Society. This union of the two organizations was effected by unanimous votes of the Society at its meeting on May 3rd, and of the Association at its annual meeting on May 22nd. In view of the importance of this step, it is fitting that a statement should be addressed to you explaining the circumstances which led to it.

The organization of the Georgia Historical Association in 1917 was due to the feeling that the Georgia Historical Society had failed in a measure to live up to its name, since practically throughout its history its officers and curators, and largely the membership, had been confined to Savannah, while the publications of the Society had usually been devoted to the Colonial and Revolutionary phases of our State history. The founders of the Association desired to organize an historical society which would be State-wide in its membership and cover the whole range of Georgia history in its activities.

The response to the appeal for membership and support for the new organization was widespread. We succeeded in enrolling nearly 500 members, every part of Georgia being represented. We have held four annual meetings, at which